



REPORT ON AYA ASSEMBLY

I attended the annual assembly of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) as the delegate of the Yale Club of the uncoast. The theme of the series of meetings that took place in New Haven between November 9 and November 11, 2006 was “For God, for Country and for Yale: The Importance of Service at Yale and Beyond.” Since its founding in 1701, Yale has fostered a culture of service. The Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, established by undergraduates in 1886, offers students a wide range of options for service in New Haven, elsewhere in the United States, and even abroad. Nearly 3,000 students, over half of those enrolled in Yale College, participate in Dwight Hall programs every year and provide over 120,000 hours of service. Some tutor at local public schools. Others remain in New Haven over the summer to participate in recreational and educational programs, often using Yale facilities. These summer programs target disadvantaged youngsters in a city where approximately twenty-five percent of residents live below the poverty level. Faculty, staff, and graduate students also play active roles in local community service. For example, Medical School faculty and students operate a free medical clinic. Forestry School volunteers work with community residents to cultivate what are known as “urban forests.” As part of this program, trees are planted, parks are beautified, and vacant lots are cleaned up.



Frank Samponaro

Other Forestry School students and faculty collaborate with utility companies and agencies of state and local governments in projects to protect the environment. The reach of activities involving Yale students extends beyond the boundaries of New Haven. In one program sponsored by the AYA, students who have financial support from Yale Clubs and alumni spend their summers working for community service organizations throughout the United States.

In another program operating under the auspices of Dwight Hall, undergraduate volunteers are scheduled to make six international service trips during spring break 2007 to Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Tunisia. The role of alumni in university-sponsored service programs is an impressive one. For example, some individual alumni and Yale clubs sponsor summer internship programs for students. Members of the Yale Club of Chicago have adopted a school in one of their city’s most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Currently, about seventy-five members tutor regularly at the school.

The examples of activities involving students, faculty, staff, and alumni cited above are but a sample of a much larger list. They serve to illustrate that the Yale tradition of service certainly remains as strong today as it was in

the past.

As usual, the concluding session of the 2006 AYA assembly featured an update by President Richard Levin '74 Ph.D. He informed us that the program to strengthen the sciences at Yale is continuing, with current emphasis on new buildings and the renovation of older structures like the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory. Efforts also continue to upgrade clinical research at the Medical School as well as to transform the School of Management into a business school of the highest quality.

The emphasis on the sciences and the School of Management is not taking place at the expense of the arts. The beautifully renovated Louis Kahn building of the University Art Gallery has been reopened. The Paul Rudolph Architecture building is now undergoing an extensive renovation, and a new sculpture facility for the School of Art is under construction.

President Levin reported that an effort is being made to see to it that every undergraduate has the opportunity for a meaningful international experience during term time or through summer programs abroad. Yale's new campus at Beijing University is now in operation, with Yale and

Chinese students living and studying together. Formal linkages with Indian academic institutions are currently being explored. All these programs and buildings cost a great deal of money, and we learned that the University's three billion dollar fund-



raising campaign is off to a very good start. Nearly two billion dollars has already been raised.

The president's update concluded with two significant announcements. The possibility of creating two new undergraduate residential colleges is being given serious consideration.

A final decision in the matter will be made by late 2007.

Since the site for the proposed new colleges has already been selected, it would not surprise me if the final decision will be to go ahead with construction. The principle justification for building two more colleges is that with only nine percent of applicants to the current freshman class accepted, Yale is forced to deny admission to many highly qualified young men and women.

It is anticipated that this problem will continue and even intensify unless more space for undergraduates is created. The final bit of news is one that will bring joy to Old Blues. Lectures by Yale professors are now available free of charge on the internet. New lectures will be posted on a regular basis. Click on the AYA link of the Yale web site, www.yale.edu.

My three-year term as the Mdelegate of the Yale Club of the Suncoast will end in the spring of 2007. Consequently, I have attended the last of three assemblies as the representative of our Club, a responsibility that has been a very real pleasure to perform. I conclude my service confident that the University is in extremely able hands and that its future is very bright indeed.

Frank Samponaro

PROFESSOR LEVY ADDRESSES THE Yale CLUB

“THE ARCHEOLOGY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON’S BOYHOOD HOME”

Dr. Philip Levy, Asst. Professor at the Dept. of History, University of Florida, Tampa, spoke to the Club on Nov. 16 at the Sarasota Yacht Club. He gave a scintillating review of the



history and myths surrounding the property on the Rappahannock River in Virginia known as Ferry Farm, George Washington’s Boyhood Home.

Washington is arguably the only Founding Father who had a childhood that was part of our national folklore from the Nineteenth Century. Benjamin Franklin, a possible rival for this distinction, in fact narrated and haped his own childhood as part of his autobiography. Jefferson, Madison, Adams and Hamilton

arrived and remained in our awareness as adults. But Washington, “the father of his country,” was the object of numerous fables about his childhood. They were recorded in books for nineteenth century children by “Parson” Mason Locke Weems (the famous Cherry Tree cutting first appeared in his 1806 revision of *The Life and Memorable Actions of George Washington*) and in William Holmes McGuffey’s *Eclectic Readers* (mid-1830s). Other Washington “fables” include throwing a silver dollar across the Rappahannock, killing a sorrel colt, and having his clothes stolen while he was swimming.

Fable has played an equally strong part in the story of George Washington’s boyhood home. Washington was born in 1732 in Westmoreland County, VA. The family’s 1720s house burned to the ground in 1742, and a successor was built. Washington lived at the Ferry Farm from 1738 to about 1752, depending on whose chronology one accepts. All of the original buildings associated with Washington’s boyhood have been destroyed, and the nineteenth century farm which followed them was also destroyed during

the Civil War campaigns near Fredericksburg, when armies encamped on the site used the buildings as firewood.

Nevertheless, local entrepreneurs and a public that wanted to believe it was seeing the real thing have invested a few post-Washington buildings in the area with a special Washingtonian authenticity. The most notable is the “Surveyor’s Office.” Young George is supposed to have learned the surveyor’s trade working in that small frame structure. By the 1910s the building was becoming a local tourist attraction and by the 1930s it was the subject of historical preservation efforts. However, Prof. Levy has researched old prints and Civil War glass plate photographs that prove the ground was bare in the 1860s. Other evidence shows that the “Surveyor’s Office” and a related barn were put up in the 1870s. Over the next few decades, claims for their authenticity as features of Washington’s childhood grew ever more bold.

Prof. Levy laced his historical findings with colorful anecdotes about historians, promoters and politicians who have added to the Washington legends. Club President Peter French concluded the session by praising “the passion of a true scholar.”

Dyer S. Wadsworth

JOHN STOLTZFUS, BANK OF AMERICA INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, ADDRESSES CLUB

Many members and guests of the Yale Club of the Suncoast assembled for the Club's regular Sarasota Yacht Club luncheon on December 14th and heard John Stoltzfus, Senior Market Strategist, Investment Strategy Group of Bank of America, speak lucidly about economic trends and their expected influence on investments during the next 18 months.

Mr. Stoltzfus explained that "strategy" is similar to aerial reconnaissance in that it takes an overall view seeking meaningful occurrences. For investments, reconnaissance looks at cash, bonds, stocks, real estate, commodities, hedge funds, private equity, and derivative financial products. He looks for so-called secular" trends, compared to "cyclical" fluctuations; if the detection and analysis of the secular is correct, the cyclical is no problem.

The following appear to be important secular situations:

- Interest rates ceased declining during 2003, but remain mild. Current rates are expected to remain stable, with minor fluctuations, for two or more years. This environment favors business investment.
- Oil prices are expected to remain high (\$60 range) but not enough to cause economic decline. Club member Lewis Hamilton asked whether a very bad outcome in the Persian Gulf would cause major economic turmoil. Mr. Stoltzfus said that slowing economies and the political desires of mid-East rulers would soon dampen an oil spike.
- Industrialization and urbanization in the developing world will shift the focus of investors and governments. Two decades ago, only the most aggressive of U.S. investors made portfolio investments in less developed countries. Today, burgeoning infrastructure in

Asia and Latin America (Brazil, Argentina, Mexico) has made investments in those places routine portfolio management. China's government, to avoid another revolution, has been allowing some market freedoms.

- Baby boomers, world-wide, are beginning to retire. The changes in their earning and investing patterns are even affecting the 10-year Treasury market, where those bonds are in such demand that their yields are below short-term rates.

- Fresh water, especially for agriculture and industry (most of its uses), will be in great demand. Water suppliers are good long-term equities. Mr. Stoltzfus went on to cover the 2006 and 2007 picture in thorough detail, candidly admitting to a few misjudgments in his talk to the Club a year earlier. U.S. GDP growth, lately 3-3 ½ %, is slowing from its 5-year rate of advances. Corporate profits

are increasing at a 14% rate this year, but will slow to 5-9 % in 2007. There is contraction in manufacturing, but 70% of our economy is services, which are growing. In the equities investment style battle between devotees of value versus growth, value has prevailed for the last two years, but Mr. Stoltzfus expects growth to be the better bet in 2007.

In answer to Jeff Long's question, Mr. Stoltzfus said he did not believe that heavy spending by the federal government would cause foreigners to abandon purchases of U.S. debt securities. He pointed out that foreign governments require exports to support themselves, so that purchases of our papers helps them export to us.

There was more, much more. Mr. Stoltzfus had full command of economic statistics and how to make sense of them. At the conclusion of his remarks, Club President Peter French said it was a great pleasure to have John Stoltzfus back, not least because it reminds us how smart he is.





Dr George Mims, of the PALS organization, share a pleasant “meet and greet” opportunity before lunch



Cindy Roberts, Guest of Ellen Born, enjoys the afternoon among new friends



Howard Doss, Senior Executive of Bank of America listens to an interesting tale from Jack Kahn



Dr. John Wetenhall and Karen Kopp talk with guests at the exciting Ringling Museum Art and Luncheon event

CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YALE CLUB *50th*

In 1957 the Yale Club of Sarasota formally came into existence. On February 3, 2007, a gala dinner will take place at the Sarasota Yacht Club to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of what we today know as the Yale Club of the Suncoast. Many members have asked for an evening event, and this one should be very special indeed.

The festivities will begin with socialization at 5:15 p.m. with the recorded music of the Yale Glee Club, the Yale Marching Band, and the Whiffenpoofs playing in the background. Dinner will be accompanied by live piano music. Immediately thereafter, Dave Phillips, '03 MBA, will make what promises to be a lively and interesting presentation comparing Yale and America in 1957 and 2007. Frank Samponaro, '62 will next recognize those present who have been members of the Club the longest. He will also present the recipient of the annual award for service to the Yale Club of the Suncoast with a plaque from the Association of Yale Alumni. Brian Kelly '61 will then lead a sing-along of some of our favorite Yale songs. (If you have forgotten the words to tunes like *Boola, Boola; Bulldog; Down the Field; Good night, Poor Harvard; and Bright College Years*, don't worry. The words to these songs will be provided).

The price of the dinner including salad, entre, vegetable, starch, and dessert is forty dollars per person. Diners will have a choice of either salmon or prime rib of beef. There will be a cash bar. To reserve, please send your check payable to the Club to: Yale Club of the Suncoast, P.O. Box 753, Sarasota, FL 34230 and indicate the choice of entre for each

member of your party. **The deadline for reservations is Monday, January 29, 2007.** As always, guests are welcome. Anyone with questions should call Frank Samponaro at 941-966-9115. 20

Frank Samponaro



Following our Gala 50th Anniversary Evening on February 3, your Yale Club is sponsoring another marvelous event: On Thursday, February 22, we shall cruise Sarasota Bay onboard the Marina Jack II enjoying a deluxe luncheon buffet, cash bar, and the anecdotes of our fellow member, Jack Chris Kahn, Class of 1958.

As the Manager of our area's premiere resort hotel, the Far Horizons, Jack was involved in a wide range of extraordinary events in Sarasota's recent history, the 1960's and 1970's.

Especially interesting to our members will be the story behind the twin visits of Germany's famous Chancellor Willy Brandt to Longboat Key and the Kahn's Far Horizons Resort.

Also, Jack will share with us some anecdotes of the Van Wezel's early years, as he was the chairman of the PAA's Citizens Advisory Board for the Hall's first fifteen years (1970- 1985).

One of the highlights will be Jack's description of the FBI's single greatest cold war triumph. . . a surreptitious espionage operation which was never publicized or acknowledged. It will be an occasion you won't want to miss.

Remember: Nautical attire: non-slip shoes no ties.

Jack Kahn



Roland Kopp, who rightly received high praise from the Club's officers and members for his outstanding success in arranging the Ringling event, is seen here at Treviso Restaurant on the Ringling grounds.

Yale Drawing Event at Ringling Draws Many!

Attracting over 100 attendees, our November 4th "Celebration of Yale Art at the Ringling" set a new attendance record for a club special event. Positive comments expressed by Yalies from Tampa, Sarasota and Naples as well as attendees from Sarasota's Ivy League Club were even more satisfying.

The day began in the Historic Asolo Theater with a film documenting its history and restoration. After introductory remarks from John Wetenhall, Director of the Ringling Museum and Jock Reynolds, Director of the Yale Art Gallery, John J. Marciari, Associate Curator of Early European Art at the Yale Art Gallery and one of the authors of the exhibit catalog, gave an outstanding lecture on the exhibit itself. His presentation provided an exciting and informative dimension to Yale's collection of European Drawings and traced their history from the early Renaissance to the middle of

the nineteenth century. Following lunch at the Treviso Restaurant, Mr. Marciari conducted a tour of the exhibit, after which people were "on their own" and free to explore other areas of the Museum.

It was a great day and a remarkable event that materialized due to a network of Yale people. In particular, special thanks go to Ms. Joanna Weber, '89 MAR, who is an Associate Curator of the Ringling Museum and held various curatorial positions at Yale. Joanna, who spoke at our October meeting and is a new member of our Club, helped us to plan the event and was responsible for setting up the exhibit itself.

Finally, special thanks go to Ellen Born, Karen Kopp, Marsha Samponaro, and Jaqueline Svilokos (spouses of club members and docents at Ringling), who helped with the event and enabled our club to

A Wish for the Holidays

As seasons of joy approach with promises of renewal of the spirit, reflection, contentment of being with family and friends and anticipation of



the promise of a new year, I want to send my personal good wishes to each and every member of the Yale Club of the Suncoast. It is your support and continued strong participation in the activities of the Club that inspire and sustain the work of your Board and, more specifically, myself. Please have that time of joy and celebration in the days ahead. Balance that delight with thoughts of all who are in need at this time of the year.

Cordially,
Peter French, President

bluELInes, formerly Update, is produced by and for the members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast. Members are invited to submit articles and digital pictures.

Editor: Liz Troutman. Phone – 941-751-0962
Email – lizbiz@tampabay.rr.com.

YOUR PERSONAL TRIBUTE to YALE

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Yale Club of the Suncoast, all of the members are being invited to write a brief essay on a personal event or moment that occurred while on the Yale campus, an encounter or event that has had an impact on your lives since leaving New Haven. We all know those moments that years later can be recalled as having a transforming influence in the way our lives have gone. It might be the impact of a teacher or coach, a stimulating seminar, a late night discussion in a resident college or an afternoon on the playing fields of Yale. We all have our memories.

This little piece of expository writing should not exceed 600 words. It should be prepared in Microsoft Word format. When complete, the essays will be edited to uniform format and placed in a bound volume. The volume will be presented to President Levin as a tribute to Yale in our lives and the impact of learning and experience while on campus.

So mull this over as you celebrate the holidays and put your metaphorical pen to paper early in the new year so our essays will be completed by the time we gather for our anniversary party on February third.

Peter French

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Reception for 2006 Yale Book Award Recipients

On Saturday, June 17, the Club held a reception for our 2006 Book Award recipients at the Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club. A total of 36 People attended, including 10 of the recipients and their families and members of our Club. After a short period of socializing, Wes Finer welcomed the group and introduced President Peter French who talked about some of his experiences at Yale and encouraged the



TEN AWARD WINNING STUDENTS ATTEND YALE CLUB RECEPTION

handled by the Stoneybrook staff and our thanks are due to Frank Samponaro for making the arrangements. Our guests really seemed to appreciate our Club's efforts, and we will try to do it again next year.



WES FINER ADDRESSES YALE BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS AND PARENTS

students to seriously consider applying to Yale in the fall.

Wes then launched into a standard overview of Yale and its advantages and the kinds of things involved in applying to Yale. Several of our members added their thoughts to the presentation and answered questions from the audience. The entire event was extremely well-

Wes Finer

